

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-49 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 1, 12, 21, 28, and 39 have been amended. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 1-49 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 12, 21, 28 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC § 112 (¶ 2) in relation to the phrases "said information packet helps define one of said devices as a master device for said network" and "resolving status of said first device coupled to said network." Claims 1, 12, 21, 28 and 39 are amended herein, all after a similar fashion as exemplified by the reproduction of Claim 1 shown below for the Examiner's convenience, with underlining added for emphasis.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for fault management in a distributed network management station comprising:
initiating a first device coupled to a network, wherein said first device comprises at least one of a single processing element device, a computing system, and a blade type computing system compliant with a compact peripheral component interconnect (PCI) chassis;
broadcasting from said first device an information packet describing said first device to a plurality of devices coupled to the network, wherein said information packet helps define one of said first device and said devices as a master device for said network;
listening at said first device for responses to said information packet from said devices; and
resolving status of said first device coupled to said network based on any responses received, wherein said resolving results in said distributed network management station having said defined master device being one of said first device and said devices.

As amended herein, Claims 1, 12, 21, 28, and 39 recited that the information packet describes the first device, that the first device listens for responses to the information packet from the devices, and that the status of the first device is resolved based on any responses received.

Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112 (¶ 2). Applicants respectfully assert that, as amended herein, Claims 1, 12, 21, 28, and 39 comply with 35 USC § 112 (¶ 2) and therefore are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

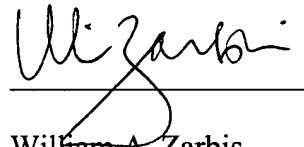
It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections and objections. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 1-49) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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